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| <p style="text-align: center;">Section 8 Evaluation and Modification of the Framework</p> |
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This section governs the evaluation and modification of the *Accreditation Framework*.

A. Evaluation of the *Accreditation Framework*

- 1. Evaluation Design.** The Commission and the Committee on Accreditation are jointly responsible, in consultation with educational institutions and organizations, for the design of a comprehensive evaluation of accreditation policies and their implementation, and for the selection of an independent evaluator to conduct the evaluation.
- 2. Formative and Summative Evaluation.** The evaluation design will include formative components to produce early and ongoing information and suggestions about the *Accreditation Framework* and its implementation. The design will also include summative components. The evaluation will include an appropriate sample of institutions and accreditation options, and will be based on comprehensive information collected over a period of time that assures that the major features of the accreditation process have been well tested. It is expected that the formative and summative evaluation will be conducted over a four-year time span, beginning when the first institution is reviewed in accordance with this *Framework*.
- 3. Evaluation Report and Recommendations.** A comprehensive evaluation report and recommendations will be presented to the Commission and the Committee on Accreditation for their consideration. Among other policy issues, the evaluator will recommend whether Option 3 (General Program Standards) should serve, in addition to Option 1 (California Program Standards), as a basis for determining the comparability of standards under Options 2 or 5.

B. Modification of the Accreditation Framework

1. **General Provisions Regarding Modifications.** The Commission will consult with the Committee on Accreditation and educational institutions and organizations regarding any proposed modifications of the *Framework*. Modifications will occur in public meetings of the Commission, after the Commission has considered relevant information provided by the Committee on Accreditation, postsecondary institutions, accreditation team members, the Commission's professional staff, and other concerned individuals. The Commission will determine the date when a policy modification is effective.
2. **Refinements and Clarifications of the Framework.** The Commission may modify the *Accreditation Framework* to refine or clarify its contents, as needed. The Commission retains its authority to reconsider and modify the Program Standards for Options 1, 4 and 5 as the need arises.
3. **Significant Modifications of the Framework.** The Commission will maintain without significant modifications the *Framework's* major features and options, including the Common Standards, and Option 3 (General Program Standards), until the summative evaluation is completed or until there is compelling evidence that a significant modification is warranted. The determination of compelling evidence and the warranted significant modification will be made by the Commission with the concurrence of the Committee on Accreditation and the Chancellor of the California State University, the President of the University of California, and the President of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.